reportedly included two persons named Anjanappa and Sriramappa, stabbed one Krishna Reddy who died on the spot. In retaliation a group of 150-200 persons belonging to the Reddy community attacked the colony of the village inhabited by the Scheduled Caste community around 9.00 P.M. and set fire to the house belonging to Sriramappa and another adjoining house. Six persons, four men and two women, died on the spot due to suffocation and burn injuries and one lady succumbed to her injuries later on the way to hospital.

The immediate provocation for the murder of Krishna Reddy is reported to be a verbal altercation between the Reddys and the Scheduled Castes on 9th March on some trivial issue.

The State Police have arrested 15 persons in connection with the violence so far. Additional police force has also been stationed at the village as well as at the Divisional Headquarters at Chintamani and at District Headquarters, Kolar. Prohibitory orders have been enforced at Chintamani and Kambalapalli areas since 13th March, 2000. Investigations are on and senior police officials are supervising the investigation. The State Chief Minister, the State Home Minister and other leaders have visited the spot and assured protection to the remaining Scheduled Caste families and arranged relief operations. The Chief Minister has announced institution of a judicial inquiry into the incident. The Chief Minister has also announced *ex gratia* compensation of Rs.1 lakh to each, suitable employment to the next of kin of those killed, rehabilitation of the affected people and assured stringent action against those who were responsible for the heinous crimes.

The situation is currently reported to be tense but under control.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up clarifications at 5 o'clock. Now, before we take up the Special Mentions, Bill for introduction, Shri Suresh Prabhu.

THE INDIAN POWER ALCOHOL (REPEAL) BILL, 2000

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, I introduce the Bill.